

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

EO-960

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN
STB DOCKET NO. AB-33 (Sub. No-235X)

June 18, 2008

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on May 30, 2008 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended four environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. The Iowa State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO has not completed its evaluation of the potential impact of this project on historic properties. Accordingly, the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until completion of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470. UP shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis regarding the results of any consultations with the SHPO.
2. Based on the comments of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, if salvage activities include bridge removal, the Union Pacific Railroad Company shall: (1) remove all fill material to an upland, non-wetland site; (2) remove all pilings to at least one foot below streambed elevations; (3) seed all disturbed areas with native grasses; and (4) take measures to ensure that sediments are not introduced into waters of the United States.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Union Pacific Railroad Company shall consult with the Calhoun and Webster County Conservation Boards regarding the potential impact of the proposed abandonment on agricultural drainage systems along and through the railroad grade and to determine

the need to conduct an inventory of native plants within the project area prior to the onset of salvage activities.

4. Prior to conducting salvage operations, the Union Pacific Railroad Company shall consult with the Calhoun County Board of Supervisors to address its concerns regarding potential impacts that may occur during salvage activities to the following drainage Districts located under the right-of-way of the line proposed for abandonment: (1) Drainage District No. 75 located in Section 35 of Greenfield Township (35-88-31); (2) Drainage District No. 97 located in Section 35 of Greenfield Township (35-88-31); (3) Joint Drainage District No. 95 Calhoun & No. 70 Webster located in Section 36 of Greenfield Township (36-88-31); and (4) Joint Drainage District No. 31 Calhoun & No. 16 Webster Open Ditch located in Section 2 & 3 of Cedar Township (2&3-87-31).

If the above conditions are imposed, SEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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